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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS
REPORT NO. 00 -F-216
CD NO.

COUNTRY COMMUNIST CHINA
SUBJECT INDICATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL VULNERABILITIES

DATE OF INFORMATION 11-17 Feb. 1952

HOW PUBLISHED

DATE DIST. 17 MAR 52

WHERE PUBLISHED

DATE PUBLISHED

LANGUAGE

NO. OF PAGES

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

CHANGE TO
UNCLASSIFIED

PER REGRADING
BULLETIN NO. 20

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BULLETIN NO. 20

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SOURCE MONITORED BROADCASTS

CPW Report No. 9 - COMMUNIST CHINA

(Feb. 11 - 17, 1952)

SUMMARY

In broadcasts to the home audience during the period Feb. 11-17 the Chinese Communist radio concentrated on the antiwaste, anticorruption, antibureaucracy drive to the virtual exclusion of most other news subjects. New propaganda and promotion methods were reported, in spite of the fact that this phase of the drive was scheduled to be ended by now. Movies, special radio programs, and newspaper articles were used to promote the drive, and students, women, workers in factories, and Youth Corps members were enlisted to promote interest. Special leadership was given to the Youth Corps in some areas, with membership in the organization granted to young men who worked diligently to promote the drive. The special duty of the Youth Corps seemed to be to encourage youths to report their fathers for corruption, while women's organizations stressed that wives should report their husbands.

Confession and accusation meetings still were reported by the dozens, with thousands of confessions and accusations made. However, there was some indication that enthusiasm for these meetings was waning. Small meetings of 200 or 400 were frequently reported, and seldom was the crowd reported at a meeting larger than 1,000. There also were numerous reports of extension of the confession deadline, which previously had been set for early February in most localities. The same pattern of pardon following confession, arrest following refusal to confess, was followed, but there were many reports also of persons being arrested because they refused to "confess in full." Stress also was laid on accusations by women, with one woman leader pointing out that women should have "equality with men" in making confessions and accusations.

The "Five Anti's" campaign against businessmen was mentioned occasionally, but there seemed to be less emphasis on this phase of the drive than during the previous week. Businessmen, especially merchants, remained the most corrupt personnel, but Government workers also were considered guilty, and the excusing of a cadre who had been "corrupted by a merchant" seemed to be less enthusiastic. However, the Wuhsi radio reported that "salaries, bribes, or extra bonuses" given to cadres by employers in an attempt to buy immunity could be "kept by the employees," with no further investigation or punishment by the Government. The reward for reporting tax evasion also was raised in some areas, up to 10 percent of the evaded tax in Central and South China. These new concessions to informers might indicate a growing distaste for "reporting."

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More evidence of a growing resistance to informing and making accusations was seen in reports from the shop clerks' campaign against corrupt merchants. While manipulation of the shop clerks remained the main weapon in ferreting out corruption among the merchants, there were increasing reports of "hesitancy" among the clerks, and they were repeatedly urged to "overcome their fears" and make accusations. Moves to "indoctrinate" clerks and "correct their thinking" were also reported, and Kunming told of a meeting of the families of shop clerks, at which some wives admitted they had "influenced their husbands" against making reports.

Concentration on the "big tigers" was not as great as might have been expected from previous announcements. While "big tiger hunting teams" were organized, and numerous cases of vast corruption reported, still the proportion of these big cases to the small ones was not large. The Anshan radio complained that, despite the organization of big tiger hunting teams, "only one major corrupt element was exposed." Laxity of cadres was blamed for the slowness of the attack on big tigers, and it was suggested in a number of broadcasts that the cadres themselves might be involved, and had become, as Tsinan said, "running dogs of the capitalists." Those big tigers captured were not all private businessmen by any means. Other problems besides laxity of the cadres are suggested by a Tsinan broadcast that an "adjudication committee" had been appointed to "handle cases arising out of the drive." A Yangchow broadcast also implied that the cadres had been lax "because of the strong opposition of corrupt elements."

Actual resistance to the anticorruption drive, as opposed to "laxness" and "hesitancy," seemed to come almost entirely from the businessmen. The three most common forms of resistance were "mutual alliances," faulty confessions, and suppression of clerks and other employees. Mention of mutual alliances between corrupt elements to preserve secrecy was common, although little had been heard on this subject previously. Practically all regional broadcasting stations reported at least one instance of a mutual alliance between businessmen, or between a merchant and his clerks. Incomplete confessions were reported less frequently, but there were indications that confession of minor corruptions to avoid being accused of the larger ones was common, while Wuhu told of merchants sending in "false accusations" to discredit the drive. Reports of businessmen suppressing workers, even stopping their wages and meals, were common, and Tsinan announced that one merchant had been given the death sentence for "obstructing" the drive and threatening his clerk until he committed suicide. Merchants also were accused of spreading stories against clerks in an attempt to turn them against each other. Wuhan charged one merchant with refusing to allow his clerks to listen to the broadcast of an anticorruption rally. The greatest resistance of merchants against operations of clerks seemed to be in Kunming, where hardware merchants were said to have closed their shops and refused to pay wages, and one merchant was quoted as threatening liquidation of the clerks "when the Kuomintang comes back."

A new undertone in the anticorruption drive is a vicious attack on businessmen who have supplied inferior goods in fulfilling contracts for supplies for the Chinese Volunteers. Various contractors were accused of supplying poison food, rotten eggs, quack medicines, and inferior first aid kits. There are indications that merchants and businessmen are to receive a considerable part of the blame for failures of the Chinese in Korea and the large casualty list there. One broadcast declared: "American imperialists failed in their attempts to kill us, but the dishonest merchants secretly stabbed many of our comrades in the back." The Wuhan radio, speaking of these merchants and contractors, declared: "Their corruption has greatly obstructed the Korean war effort." There was some bitterness noted, too, at defections of Government officials. Two such officials were described in a Tsinan broadcast as "old Party cadres who turned into faithful servants of the capitalists."

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Extension of the area infected by the hoof and mouth disease was admitted, and a large part of Liaosi Province is now endangered and little success is being achieved in curing the diseased animals. Concern over drought in North China also was detected, with a widespread effort to take proper methods in spring farming to prevent even further losses from dry weather. There has been little rain and snow this fall and winter in the northern provinces, and the land is described as "very dry." Last year heavy losses from drought were admitted in Chahar and Suiyuan, while only 70 percent of a normal crop was harvested in Hopei, Shansi, and Pingyuan. Failure of mutual-aid teams to do all that had been expected of them also was revealed, especially in parts of Kiangsu.

The Deputy Governor of Kwangsi Province was reported as displeased by the lack of progress land reform has made in some parts of the province. The Kunming radio also told of resistance to land reform in some parts of Yunnan, where "landlordism still reigns."

Despite the postponement of Sino-Soviet Friendship Week in China, and the concentration of the celebration into a few days around the anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Treaty, there are few indications of widespread enthusiasm over Sino-Soviet friendship. Soviet films and pictorial exhibits were shown in various parts of the country, but Peking excused the small crowds in attendance by saying that "in spite of the rain large numbers" saw the shows. Wuhan placed the number seeing the exhibits in Wuhan at only 12,000. Only the Mukden radio gave any considerable amount of time to promoting the Sino-Soviet celebration, and Peking admitted a lack of enthusiasm at Foochow by saying that the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association in Fukien Province "refuted" the "doubtful attitude" toward the Soviet Union "adopted by the propertied class" there.

Ideological adjustment, or thought reform, was virtually neglected by the Chinese radio. Only a few reports of educational meetings where thought reform was discussed were broadcast, along with a claim that winter schools "increased the political consciousness" of the students. One report of attacks on Catholic institutions was monitored. Only a few broadcasts mentioned suppression of counterrevolutionaries, and only a few referred to the national minorities, although claims were made that the People's Liberation Army was helping to develop the economy of minority groups in Sinkiang. Two subjects given heavy stress in recent months--preferential treatment for Army dependents, and enforcement of the new marriage law--were almost entirely neglected by the Chinese radio during the period under study.

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